(1)	(2)	(3)
1992-93	179.48	6.6
1993-94	184.26	2.7
1994-95	191.50	3.9
1995-96	180.42	-5.8
1996-97	199.44	10.5
1997-98	192.26	-3.6
1998-99	203.04	5.6
1999-2000*	205.92	1.4
Average during 1992-93 to 1999-2000	192.04	2.67

*Advance estimates as on 29.06.2000

Support price of cotton

3289. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the support price of cotton was increased last;

(b) the minimum support price of cotton in 1997-98 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the rise in market price of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton is revised every year. The latest revision was effected in 1999-2000.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices for two basic varieties of cotton for 1997-98 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

(Rs. Per Qtl.)

Year	Basic variety	MSP fixed by the Government
1997-98	F-414/H-777	1330
	H-4	1530
1999-2000	F-414/H-777/J-34	1575
	H-4	1775

(c) The prices of cotton in the early part of the season ruled lower than those of last year. However due to improvement of the prices in the International market from January, 2000, there was increase in the prices of cotton.

To check an abnormal rise in market price of cotton, the Government have placed import of cotton under OGL with a nominal import duty of 5.5%. The import window is thus open and mills can import quantities and varieties of cotton of their choice.

Policy to tackle natural calamity

3290. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 501 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1998 and state:

(a) the details of policy finalised in this regard;

(b) the extent of damage caused by flood and cyclone since April, 1998 to June, 2000, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of relief/assistance asked for, amount declared by Prime Minister, various sources of fund, amount actually released including those assistance from other sources, both within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Financial assistance for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities is available under the scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and was also available upto 31.3.2000 under the scheme of National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). The items of expenditure and norms of assistance are provided under these Schemes. The State Governments are required to debit the expenditure for relief accordingly.

(b) Details of damage during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, as reported by the State Governments, are given in the Statement I to III respectively. (*See* below).

(c) Central share of CRF and assistance from the NFCR (wherever necessary) are released to the States for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. State-wise details of releases from CRF and NFCR is indicated in the statement-IV (*See* below). Funds are also made available to the States mainly in the form of Advance Plan Assistance taking into account the